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TEJA STOKES NAMED DMHMRSAS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Richmond – DMHMRSAS Commissioner James Reinhard, M.D., announced today that Teja S. Stokes has been named Assistant Commissioner for Special Projects. She will assume her new position on February 11, 2008.

Stokes leaves her position as a senior policy analyst with the Virginia Department of Medical Assistant Services (DMAS) where she developed policies affecting Medicaid-funded long-term care programs and managed various projects. Previously, Stokes served for four years as the executive director of the Arc of Virginia, providing leadership and guidance to help improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. She also spent nearly seven years at the Chesterfield Community Services Board holding several positions, most recently the supervisor of mental health/mental retardation services.

In her new position at DMHMRSAS, Stokes will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and completing statewide organizational projects across the entire mental health, developmental disability, and substance use disorder system.

Stokes, of Chester, holds a Master's degree in business leadership and quality management from Upper Iowa University and an undergraduate degree in psychology from Mary Washington College.

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Available to citizens statewide, Virginia's public mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services system is comprised of 40 community services boards (CSBs) and 16 state facilities. DMHMRSAS seeks to promote dignity, choice, recovery, and the highest possible level of participation in work, relationships, and all aspects of community life for these individuals with mental health, mental retardation or substance abuse disorders.